Ka Mōhai Aloha- The Gift of Grace or the Gracious Sacrifice.

The Season of Lent is a time that we use to reflect on the gracious gift that God gave to us in His Son Jesus Christ. We celebrated his birth at Christmas and now at Easter, we mark his death. But unlike us humans, for whom physical death is final, Christ’s death was not. On the third day after Jesus was crucified, he was resurrected or rose again. This was a sign to us that we too will rise again. That life in Christ is eternal. The Season of Lent is designed to help us to reflect on what that gift truly means to us and how we might be better people while we still have the chance.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter, lasting for 40 days (not counting Sundays). There are a variety of practices that the different faith groups have used to prepare for Easter. Some will give up something such as candy, sweets, ice cream or even meat. Others might add something to bolster their faith life, like prayer. For me, I’ll usually turn off my car radio on my way to work and use that time to pray. That’s 30 minutes talking with my Heavenly Father. Do whatever will work for you to strengthen your faith.

For these series of devotionals, we asked some of the leaders, faculty and staff of the various Kamehameha Schools programs to share their mana’o of what Lent means to them. We hope this will provide you strength and encouragement during this special time.

Looking forward to Easter!
Nā Kahu Kordell Kekoa and Kalani Wong

Here are a few kid friendly web pages on Lent:
- [http://brightsadness.org/kids.html](http://brightsadness.org/kids.html)

Did you know…

…that the date of Easter changes every year? Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox.

…the day before Ash Wednesday is called a “Fat Tuesday” or “Shrove Tuesday”? In some places, pancakes are served. Here in Hawai‘i, malasadas are a tasty treat eaten by all. What else is that Tuesday known as?

…the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are made from burning the palms used on Palm Sunday the year prior?

…there are a number of events in the Bible that last 40 days including the amount of time that Jesus spent in the wilderness? What are the others?
Lent 1 (February 18-21) by Kahu Kalani Wong, Chaplain KS Maui

**Heluhelu Baibala/Scripture Reading**

7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! - Romans 5:7-9

**Mana’o**

Have you received gifts that you haven’t used? I’m sure the giver must have spent time looking for something that you might want or could use, spending time and money to get the right gift. It could have been for Christmas or a birthday, or just because. Yet it sits in your closet unused or unwanted. There’s a really special gift that is so wonderful and so valuable that it would be really sad if we never used it. It’s a gift that was given to us by God - free and totally unexpected and undeserved. It’s Ka Mōhai Aloha - the gift of grace or the withholding of the punishment and forgiving us of our wrongdoings even though we don’t deserve it.

We often do things that go against what God hopes for us. These are called sins. We should be punished for this, just like our parents would discipline us when we do the wrong things. However, there are times that our earthly parents hold back the punishment because they love us. God does the same thing. It tells us in the Bible that “the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23). We should be punished for the sins that we commit, but instead, Jesus took the punishment himself. Jesus became Ka Mōhai Aloha - the Gracious Sacrifice so that we might be forgiven for the wrong that we’ve done, not just now but always. And because of that forgiveness, we have live eternally with God in heaven.

**Questions to Ponder**

- Is there someone in your life who has done something wrong to you? Can you find a way to forgive them?
- What do we need to do to live our lives so we sin less?

**Pule**

Dear God, mahalo for all the gifts that you shower upon us so freely. May we never take any of them for granted. Help us to recognize the wrong that we do each day and help us to live pono. Ma ka inoa o Iesū Kristo, ‘Āmene.

**Keiki Activity**

- Look up the word “Mōhai” in the Hawaiian dictionary. What can you sacrifice for others?
- Do you have any unused gifts in your closet that someone else could really use? Share it with him/her.